

To FCC

Comment on recent request for rule changes on Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse test, from the Amateur Service rules (Part 97).

Home Land Security:

In the interest of home land security, and the role of the amateur radio community, we must take a hard look at the world we live in and the potential for disaster. As we have seen in recent years and months we can have disasters that no one has ever thought possible. During these times of disaster, we may and as history repeats itself, will have to rely on the simplest and the most proven form of communication technology.

As shown in the past the amateur radio community, most times, has been the first to offer a community the ability to communicate from within and to the outside of that community. Because CW is the most reliable form of communications, under the worst of conditions using the simplest of equipment and the lowest of power, we as a nation should maintain the highest amount of operators with proven proficiency in the ability to send and receive CW. The easiest way to offer a community the highest possible number of proficient CW operators is to retain 'Element 1' for all classes of license with privileges on the HF bands.

For the Disabled:

In a request for a rule change designated RM-10783, there was a statement "the code requirement limits the ability of handicapped individuals to get ham tickets". My first question is. Is this a person with a disability, as I am, who wrote the request or was it an able bodied person trying to say what is good for the disabled community. Morse code can be and is the easiest form of communications for adaptation to meet the needs of challenged people. It is in no way a hindrance to handicap people as suggested.

Lowering the Bar:

It is sometimes hard to look at ourselves and what we strive for as a population. We have a history of changing regulations that do not raise the mark of achievement but instead lower it. Having the ability to send and receive CW does not make us better operators but instead shows, a dedication. As it is now, to be an HF operator you must first show a proficiency in the ability to send and receive "Morse Code Element 1". Why would we want to lower our standards? The mode is a viable and some times the only mode open for regular repeatable communications on all HF, and in all segments of HF amateur bands. Just as we have the General, Extra class license we should keep as a bench mark the highest standards and maintain CW as a requirement to the understanding of Radio, Its Roots, its History as well as operating proficiency. The FCC can show the importance to maintain high standards by not changing the rules and retaining Element 1 for all classes of licenses with privileges on the HF bands.

